

Text 4

1. Before you read the text, look at the title and briefly discuss what you think the text will be about.
2. While you read the text, underline any information that might help you in your poster. Remember, the poster is designed to encourage people to act. Each text has one example of this kind already underlined.
3. After you have read the text, discuss and agree a list of key pieces of information to use in the poster.

The water crisis – facts and figures from the United Nations

In 2015, The United Nations launched 17 Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by 2030. All the goals have a series of targets, events and actions.

Goal 6 is Clean Water and Sanitation. The goal is to 'ensure access to water and sanitation for all' by 2030. There are eight targets, 60 events and 657 actions for Goal 6. You can see more here:

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6>.

These are summaries of the eight targets:

- 6.1. By 2030, to give access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.
- 6.2. By 2030, to give access to adequate sanitation and hygiene for all.
- 6.3. By 2030, to improve water quality, by reducing pollution, and increasing recycling.
- 6.4. By 2030, to substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water shortages.
- 6.5. By 2030, to manage water resources including sharing water internationally.
- 6.6. By 2020, to protect water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests and lakes.
- 6.A. By 2030, to expand international cooperation to developing countries in water and sanitation programmes, including desalination and recycling.
- 6.B. To encourage local communities to work on improving water and sanitation.

Let's see why this goal is so important with some facts and figures from the UN and its agencies.

Children are in most danger from climate change because of disease, food shortages and poor water and sanitation. (UNICEF, 2019).

By 2050, **1.6 billion people** will be at flood risk and **2.7–3.2 billion** will be at risk of water shortages. (United Nations, 2020)

In 2019, **12 per cent of the world population** had unsafe drinking water. (United Nations, 2020)

In 2019, **30 per cent of the world population** had no sanitation. (United Nations, 2020)



By 2030, 24–700 million people will need to move locations because of water shortages. (UN WWDR, 2009)

In **80 per cent of homes with no water**, the water collection is done by women and girls.

It is sometimes difficult to understand what statistics like these mean in everyday words. To help us understand how urgent the situation is, we need to remember that every day 1,000 children die from diseases caused by dirty water and poor sanitation. The shortage of clean water that leads to these deaths is in many cases caused by climate change. The use of fossil fuels makes our planet warmer, and this is leading to less rain in some areas and so less water. It can also lead to more rain in some areas and floods which are catastrophic for hygiene and sanitation.

'But man is a part of nature, and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself.'

Rachel Carson, Silent Spring (1962)

